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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1042  
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0499  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0271  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0314  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1861  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2720  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4603  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 KARACHI 000138

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/22/2019  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)  
SUBJECT: SINDH - THE GANGS OF KARACHI

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY CONSUL GENERAL STEPHEN FAKAN FOR REASONS 1  
.4 b and d.

11. (S) Summary: The police in Karachi are only one of several armed groups in the city, and they are probably not the most numerous or best MQM (Muttahida Quami Movement)
12. (S) The MQM is an ethnic political party of the Urdu speaking community (known as "Mohajirs," which is Arabic for immigrants) that migrated to Karachi.
13. (S) MQM's armed members, known as "Good Friends," are the largest non-governmental armed element in the city. The police estimate MQM has about 10,000 members. This is compared to the city's thirty-three thousand police officers. The party operates through its 100 Sector Commanders, who take their orders from the party leadership.
14. (S) Low to middle-ranked police officials acknowledge the extortion and the likely veracity of the other charges. A senior police officer in Karachi controls the following neighborhoods in Karachi: Gulberg, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Korangi, Landhi, Liaquatabad, Malir, Nazimabad, New Karachi, North Nazimabad, and Orangi. MQM-H (Muhajir Quami Movement-Haqiqi)
15. (S) MQM-H is a small ethnic political party that broke away from the MQM in the mid-1980s. MQM-H has its strongholds in the Landhi, Korangi, and North Nazimabad. ANP (Awami National Party - Peoples National Party)
16. (S) The ANP represents the ethnic Pashtuns in Karachi. The local Pashtuns do possess personal weapons, following the tribal traditions of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), and there are incidents of violence in Karachi. KARACHI 00000138 002 OF 003
- Federally Administered Tribal Areas in August 2008, a growing number of Pashtuns fled south to swell the Pashtun ranks of what already is the largest ethnic group in Karachi.
17. (S) If rhetoric of the police and the ANP leadership is to be believed, these armed elements may be preparing to challenge MQM control of Karachi.
18. (S) The report said this neighborhood was becoming a no-go area for the police. The report went on to claim the Pashtuns are involved in the ST (Sunni Tehrik - Sunni Movement)
19. (S) ST is a small religious/political group with a presence in small pockets of Karachi. The group has only managed to win a handful of seats in the PPP (Pakistan People's Party)
20. (S) PPP is a political party led by, and centered on the Bhutto family. The party enjoys significant support in Karachi, especially among the Pashtuns. Traditionally, the party has not run an armed wing, but the workers of the PPP do possess weapons, both licensed and unlicensed. With PPP in power, the party has been able to control the city's Gangs in Lyari: Arshad Pappoo (AP) and Rahman Dakait (RD)
21. (S) AP and RD are two traditional criminal gangs that have been fighting each other since the turn of the century in the Lyari district.
22. (S) Each group has only about 200 hard-core armed fighters but, according to police, various people in Lyari have around 6,000 handguns. KARACHI 00000138 003 OF 003
- streets and interconnected houses. There are some parts of Lyari that are inaccessible to law enforcement agencies. Pashtun Terrorists
23. (S) A Senior IB officer recently opined to Post that "All Pashtuns in Karachi are not Taliban, but all Taliban are Pashtuns." The size of the Taliban problem in Karachi is not clear.
24. (S) There has not been a terrorist attack against U.S. interests in Karachi since 2006. There are several theories about Taliban activity in Karachi.
25. (S) In April, the police in Karachi arrested Badshah Din Mahsud, from their Most Wanted Terrorist list, known as the Red Book. It is believed that he was involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
26. (S) Comment: The importance of maintaining stability in Karachi cannot be over-emphasized. Traditionally, Karachi was at the center of Pakistan's economy and politics.
27. (S) The PPP's decision to include MQM in coalition governments in Sindh Province and in the federal government has helped preclude a return to the status quo.

FAKAN